

Export Policy on Agricultural Items

2190. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are in the process of finalising a long term export policy for wheat, rice, maize, pulses and other foodgrain items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has been consulted along with various other ministries and agencies on the policy;

(d) if so, the details of suggestions made by them; and

(e) the percentage of the total output of a product likely to be fixed as exportable limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the food security system. It is with this objective in mind that Government prescribes restrictions like licensing, quantitative ceilings and minimum export price on items such as pulses, wheat, maize etc. At the same time, Government's objective is to maximise foreign exchange earnings from the agricultural sector to the benefit of the farmers.

[Translation]

Price of Newsprint

2191. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the selling price of the newsprint manufactured in the country is more as compared to the price of imported newsprint;

(b) if not, the assesment made by the Government in this regard;

(c) the selling price of the indigenous newsprint and the imported newsprint during the first half of the year 1996; and

(d) the steps being taken to end the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) The Government has already imposed a 10% customs duty on the import of newsprint with effect from 29.10.1996.

STATEMENT*Trend in International and Domestic Prices*

Period	International Prices			Average Indigenous Prices
	Rate (\$)	Conversion Rate	Landed Cost (Rs/MT)	
Sep. 95-Jan. '96	750	34.0	25500	27000
Feb. 96-Mar. 96	700	-do-	23800	27000
Apr. 96-Jun. 96	580	35.0	20300	27000
July 96	500	35.80	17900	24000
Aug/Sept. 96	480	35.80	17184	21000
Oct., 96	430	35.80	15394	18000

[English]

Reluctance of Banks in Granting Loans to Women

2192. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rural women run up against unhelpful banks" appearing in the Pioneer dated October 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by banks/ financial institutions to help women to improve their economic status?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), a sub-scheme of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was started in the year 1982-83 on a pilot basis, in 50 districts but has now been extended to all the districts of the country. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the years